

101-foot waterfall named for the rain-bow that often forms in its mist.

Support for monument designation was substantial, including a letter of support from the Sierra Club signed by the renowned preservationist John Muir. On July 6, 1911, using the authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906, President William Howard Taft signed the proclamation creating Devils Postpile National Monument.

With the growth of the interstate highway system in the 1950s, a proposal for an eight-lane trans-Sierra highway connecting Fresno to Mammoth Lakes came forward that would have resulted in destruction to the landscape and the character of the monument. The effort to stop the highway was long and at times difficult. But, with strong opposition from a group of committed local residents, businessowners and packers, the proposal to build the trans-Sierra highway was abandoned in 1972.

The expansion of existing wilderness areas and the designation of the Ansel Adams Wilderness in 1984 brought further protection of Devils Postpile and the surrounding peaks and valley that constitute the breathtaking landscape of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin Valley. I am pleased that in 2009 President Obama signed legislation I authored providing additional wilderness protection to public lands in the immediate area.

Today, Devils Postpile National Monument represents the special qualities highlighted in the Presidential Proclamation that led to its creation a century ago as a place of "scientific interest" and "public enjoyment." Every year, tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world travel to the Eastern Sierra to marvel at its natural beauty and rich history.

The story of the Devils Postpile National Monument's first 100 years is a testament to the value of preservation, scientific research, and recreation. I applaud the partnership between the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service which has resulted in high quality visitor services and the preservation of the beauty of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River.

As the friends and staff of the Devils Postpile National Monument gather to celebrate this auspicious occasion, I congratulate them on their centennial anniversary and wish everyone a memorable experience.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE JUDITH MEIERHENRY

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize the service of Judith K. Meierhenry to the Unified Judicial System of South Dakota. In June of this year, Justice Meierhenry will retire after nearly 9 years as associate justice on the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Justice Judith Meierhenry was educated at the University of South Dakota where she received her bachelor's, master's, and juris doctorate degrees.

Upon completion of her education, Justice Meierhenry practiced law in Vermillion in 1977 and 1978. She began her service to the State of South Dakota in 1979 when Governor Janklow appointed her to the State Economic Opportunity Office. This was just the beginning of her commitment to South Dakota; she was appointed as Secretary of Labor beginning in 1980 and Secretary of Education and Cultural Affairs in 1983.

In 1985, Justice Meierhenry left the public sector and worked as a senior manager and assistant general counsel for Citibank in Sioux Falls, SD. Justice Meierhenry was appointed by Governor Mickelson in 1988 as a Second Circuit Court judge serving Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties. She became presiding judge of the Second Judicial Circuit in 1997.

Governor Janklow appointed Justice Meierhenry to the South Dakota Supreme Court in 2002. This historic appointment made her the first woman to serve on South Dakota's highest court. Though no female had preceded her in this post, Justice Meierhenry succeeded in this demanding position and now leaves her position having set a standard of excellence for her successors, regardless of gender, to follow. Through her service, female judges and attorneys in South Dakota's legal system now have available to them an exemplary female role model and owe a debt of gratitude to Justice Meierhenry. The citizens of the State of South Dakota are better for the public service of Judith Meierhenry.

According to Chief Justice David Gilbertson, during her time on the South Dakota Supreme Court:

Justice Judith Meierhenry has contributed to the legal scholarship of that body in resolving the disputes that come before it. Whether it be a traffic ticket or a death penalty conviction, Justice Meierhenry has approached each case with the application of the highest of legal scholarship. The South Dakota Supreme Court, the legal profession of South Dakota and all of the citizens of South Dakota are all better off for the public service of Justice Judith Meierhenry.

South Dakota Second Judicial Circuit court judge Patricia Riepel also notes that Justice Meierhenry "was always well-prepared and decisive, she required decorum in her courtroom as well as civility and cordiality to all of the participants, and she has worked tirelessly for the advancement of women within the legal profession, and especially within the judiciary."

I wish Justice Meierhenry a happy and healthy retirement. In her own words, "life and time are our only real possessions," and it is time that she reclaim those possessions for herself and her family. I thank Justice Meierhenry for her commitment to the rule of law and her long and distinguished career serving the State of South Dakota.●

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ANTHONY WRIGHT

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is with great privilege that I congratulate

late COL Anthony Wright, Seattle district engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on his well-deserved retirement after 30 years with the Army Corps. Colonel Wright has been stationed with the Seattle District for 3 years and my staff and I have had the pleasure of working extensively with him during that time.

Western Washington State has suffered several severe storms in the last few years, resulting in devastating floods, major losses of infrastructure, and millions of dollars of damage to homes and businesses. Under Colonel Wright's leadership, the Army Corps responded quickly and efficiently to minimize the threats of rising floodwaters, and for this we are very grateful. His professionalism and expertise helped our region through disasters and undoubtedly lessened the destruction and prevented the loss of life.

An example of Colonel Wright's leadership ability was his response to a storm that caused serious damage to the Howard Hanson Dam in King County, raising the flood threat for hundreds of thousands of residents in the Green River Valley, which is home to one of the largest manufacturing and distribution bases on the West Coast. Colonel Wright and the Army Corps reacted quickly and decisively to counter this vulnerability, working with local governments and the public to ensure that the region was prepared until the dam could be repaired.

On behalf of all Washingtonians, I thank Colonel Wright for his dedication to the safety and well-being of the people of western Washington. His knowledge, experience, and tireless effort will be sorely missed. I congratulate Colonel Wright and wish he and his family the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

#### A TRIBUTE TO BOBBY ALLISON

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I recognize racing legend Robert "Bobby" Arthur Allison upon his induction into the second class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Bobby is a founding member of the "Alabama Gang" and one of the greatest drivers of NASCAR's modern era.

NASCAR is the most popular and competitive racing organization in the United States, and its premier league, the Sprint Cup Series, draws thousands of fans to each of its 36 races. Last year, NASCAR opened the NASCAR Hall of Fame to honor the sport's greatest contributors, inducting Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt, Junior Johnson, Bill France, Sr., and Bill France, Jr. In the second class of inductees, Bobby, along with racing greats Ned Jarrett, David Pearson, and Lee Petty, and team owner Bud Moore, joined these elite racers in receiving one of the sport's highest honors.

Bobby Allison entered his first race while he was still a high school student in southern Florida, needing written permission from his mother to compete. Seizing the opportunity to race